

## **Alfalfa—Grass Mixtures Reduce PLH Damage — Marvin Hall, Penn State, Crop & Soil Sciences**

A recent study conducted in New York and Pennsylvania found that planting a cool—season grass with your alfalfa will reduce potato leafhopper damage. The project, conducted at Geneva and Ithaca, NY and at Landisville and Rock Springs, PA was funded by Northeast Integrated Pest Management, looked at both PLH resistant alfalfa cultivars spring seeded with orchardgrass, tall fescue or timothy. During the seeding year, there were limited differences between grass species but the addition of grass to non potato leafhopper resistance alfalfa significantly reduced PLH damage and increased yield compared to having no grass in the mixture. Adding a grass to PLH resistant alfalfa offered limited benefits in addition to those already provided by the resistant alfalfa.